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Chief Executive Officer  
Clerk of the Board



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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March 25, 2020

Attn: California Public Utilities Commission  
(CASF Administration Team)

This is a letter in support of the CASF grant application for Mendocino County (Covelo, Laytonville, Hopland, Willits) that is being completed by Hunter Communications and WiConduit. This is the first of three planned CASF projects over the next three years to upgrade and replace antiquated portions of the telecommunications infrastructure countywide. Currently, Mendocino County is extremely underserved in terms of Broadband and Internet access. The County has the 8th lowest percentage (86.7%) broadband access of the 58 counties at the current California speed standards of 6 Mbps download and 1 Mbps upload. The State's goal is 98% by region. The lack of reliable, resilient and diverse broadband infrastructure is hurting the economic growth of Mendocino County and the entire region.

Hunter Communications has a track record working in Southern Oregon and Northern California with underserved communities and bringing services to education, medical, and governmental agencies. As well, they work to provide connectivity to many cellular towers in their footprint. Extending their network and providing service to the underserved homes in Mendocino County makes great sense regionally and will provide a high level of bandwidth availability to homes and businesses. It is Hunter's intent to eventually build FTTP everywhere they pass as part of this project – even the non-CASF funded areas. Using forward thinking technology, the network will be able to provide 10Gb-100Gb in the future and be ready as bandwidth needs continually grow.

Of particular interest is the ability to connect all four communities within a single middle mile network. Co-joining these community networks provides connectivity and redundancy to First Responders, Telehealth access and for many residents who cannot connect to what could be considered the outside world. This also creates a competitive alternative that can support large future bandwidth growth needs.

**THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CARRE BROWN  
First District

JOHN MCCOWEN  
Second District

JOHN HASCHAK  
Third District

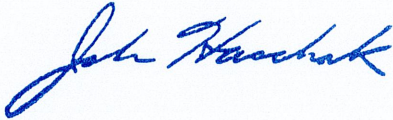
DAN GJERDE  
Fourth District

TED WILLIAMS  
Fifth District



Please consider this letter of recommendation and approve the grant application before you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Haschak". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being more prominent than the last name "Haschak".

John Haschak  
Chair  
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors